

1. (original) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing, where the data set has a characterized read error rate as a function of write timing at the area that has the spatial features;

reading the data set from the optical disc;

determining a read error rate for the data set; and

adjusting the write timing based on comparing the read error rate of the data set and the characterized read error rate as a function of write timing.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

observing whether the read error rate increases when write timing is shifted in one direction.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

observing whether the read error rate decreases when the write timing is shifted in one direction.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating the steps of writing a data set, reading the data set, and determining a read error rate for the data set, multiple times.

5. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features ~~that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing~~ arranged in accordance with the data set;

reading the data set from the optical disc;

determining a first read error rate for the data set;

adjusting the write timing;

writing the data set at the area on the optical disc that has spatial features;

reading the data set from the optical disc;

determining a second read error rate for the data set;

selecting a lowest read error rate among the first and second read error rates; and

choosing a write timing corresponding to the lowest read error rate.

6. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features ~~that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing~~ arranged in accordance with the data set;

reading the data set from the optical disc;

determining a read error rate for the data set;

adjusting the write timing; and

repeating the preceding steps until the read error rate is less than a predetermined value.

7. (original) A method, comprising:

writing a first data set, with a write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;

writing a second data set, with the write timing, at an area on the optical disc that has spatial features that distort an analog read data signal, the distortion varying as a function of write timing;

reading the first data set and the second data set from the optical disc;

determining a first read error rate for the first data set, and a second read error rate for the second data set;

comparing the first and second error rates; and

adjusting the write timing based on the comparison of the first and second error rates.

8. (new) A method, comprising:

writing a data set, having a known error rate as a function of write timing, at an area on an optical disc that has spatial features arranged in accordance with the data set;

reading the data set;

measuring a read error rate;

comparing the read error rate to the known error rate as a function of write timing to determine a write timing error.